

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0003**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # A-041 - Runway AN/FPS Radar  
Operations Building {Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1947  
Address(s): ..... North Runway Access Road {}  
County/Independent City: Accomack  
City: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... CHINCOTEAGUE WEST  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Gable	Asphalt	Roof - Asphalt Shingle
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other

Site Description: ..... Located northeast of the intersection of airstrips 10-28 and 17-35.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Communications Facility	Historic

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Communications Facility

Est. Date of Construction: .... 1947 {Owner/written data}      Accessed? ..... Yes  
Primary Resource? ..... Yes      Number of Stories: ..... 1.0  
Architectural Style: ..... Other      Condition: ..... Good  
Interior Plan Type: ..... Other      Threats to Resource: ..... None Known

Description: The concrete building has a poured concrete slab foundation and a gable roof, covered with asphalt shingles. It has shed roof additions on the east and west elevations and a modern glass-enclosed addition has been built onto the south (front) elevation. The building's walls have been covered with modern faux-stucco that is incised to include a striped pattern in blue that surrounds the building. Aluminum flashing, gutters, and downspouts are located below the roof edge as well. All of the doors are either single or paired steel replacement doors with large fixed-pane rectangular windows; many of the doors are fronted by a raised concrete landing or steps. A capped aluminum exhaust vent pierces the roof and west elevation of the west addition.

**Cemetery Information**

**Bridge Information**

**National Register Eligibility Information**

Historic Context(s): ..... Military/Defense

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Historic Time Period(s):..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

**Significance Statement:** This one-story building, built in 1947, was originally used as an explosives handling and storage building for the loading and unloading of explosive material to and from aircraft. It appears as "A-41" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. It was designated as the "Rocket Loading Facilities" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. It currently houses tracking and radar equipment used in flight projects. It is located on the north side of the main east-west runway, just to the east of the intersection with the short, northwest-southeast runway on the Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) main base.

The building is representative of a secondary resource associated with a Military/Defense property type that gained importance in the New Dominion (1945-present) period. The building was one of several buildings constructed as part of the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) shortly after the end of World War II. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily-research based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station.

The Runway AN/FPS Radar Operations Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The building's integrity of design, materials and workmanship has been adversely affected by numerous additions, the faux-stucco treatment of its exterior walls, and the replacement of the building's doors and windows. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling, and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

### ***Bibliographic Documentation***

**Department of Historic Resources  
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*Reference #: 1*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia."  
1950.

*Reference #: 2*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... Giffles and Valet

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary  
Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

*Reference #: 3*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test  
Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

**Ownership Information**

**Graphic Media Documentation**

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21525	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 11-16

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events**

*CRM Event # 1,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814

*CRM Event # 2,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878